[Shri A. J. John]

Technical Institute and Junior Technical Schools; introduction of crafts in Middle Schools; and conversion of 33 High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools with multi-purpose courses. Liberal provision has also been made for other items such as renovation of school buildings and furniture, construction of additional buildings and expansion of Basic Education. An allotment of Rs. 5.5 lakhs has also been made for the provision of additional accommodation for the S. S. T. Academy, Trivandrum and additional hostel facilities in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, Government College, Chittur and the Training College, Trichur. Provision has also been made for the payment of a grant of Rs. 29.10 lakhs to the University of Travancore which exceeds that of the current year by Rs. 1.81 lakhs.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

16. The State has a predominently Agricultural economy. But it is obvious that agriculture alone cannot support its vast population and provide full employment for all. It is therefore absolutely necessary to concentrate on the rapid industrialisation of the State.

10 A. M.

Our approach to the problem can be divided into four broad divisions, *viz.*, encouragement of Khadi and handloom industries by payment of subsidies and remission of taxes; the development of small industries by education, training, payment of grants and providing marketing facilities; the fostering of big industries by share participation and provision for credit facilities; and the direct management of selected industries wherever circumstances warrant Government intervention. The liberal loans and grants paid to weavers' Co-operative societies, the rebates paid on the sale of handloom cloth and the exemption of handloom products from sales tax have given a fillip to this major industry which provides employment to a large number of workmen. The coming year's budget makes a provision of Rs. 15.68 lakhs for encouragement of khadi industry, Rs. 21.95 lakhs for village industries, Rs. 8 lakhs for starting a spinning mill, Rs. 10.40 lakhs for encouragement of handloom industry, Rs. 3.68 lakhs for starting 60 small scale industries, Rs. 2.32 lakhs for exhibitions and opening Sales Emporia, Rs. 1.86 lakhs for development of palm gur industry, Rs. 30 lakhs for investment of shares in Commercial concerns and Rs. 20 lakhs for payment of loans to Government sponsored industrial concerns,

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Government have taken steps to start an Industrial Estate in the Quilon District. The Industrial Estate is intended primarily to relieve unemployment and to accelerate the pace of industrial development. The scheme is expected to involve a total outlay of Rs. 44 lakhs. The Government of India will finance the entire scheme by way of loans. A provision of Rs. 31 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for the scheme.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the progress achieved during the year in the scheme for the development of Coir Industry which is of vital importance to thousands of poor workers all along our coastal area. Out of 187 Coir Co-operative Societies scheduled to be organised 182 Societies have already been organised bringing into the Co-operative fold 31,936 members holding 1,00,472 shares. The remaining 5 Societies will also be organised during this year. The Societies have collected a sum of about Rs. 4.66 lakhs so far as paid up share capital and the total turnover of the Societies amounts to Rs. 260 lakhs. Till the end of January 1956 a sum of Rs. 30.08 lakhs has been disbursed as loan and Rs. 2.68 lakhs as grant and it is hoped that the entire amount of loan and grant provided for will be disbursed before the year is out. The next year's budget provides a sum of Rs. 2.87 lakhs for payment of grants, etc., to Coir Co-operative Societies and another sum of Rs. 18.80 lakhs for the grant of loans to these Societies.

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AGRICULTURE.

17. The most important achievement this year in the field of Agriculture is the establishment of an Agricultural College at Vellayani. Fifty students have been admitted during the current academic year. The strength is proposed to be raised to 80 next year. The College offers a 3 year course leading to the B. Sc. (Agri.) Degree of the University of Travancore. The College has a well equipped experimental Farm consisting of 100 acres of dry land and 350 acres of wet land, which provides facilities for research as well as practical training in Agriculture. Soil survey, Paddy breeding work, entomological work and Plant Pathology are some of the items on which research is being conducted in the Farm. The total financial outlay on the College for the first six years including 1955-56 and the second Five Year Plan period is estimated at Rs. 45 lakhs. Seventy-five per cent of the capital expenditure on this Institution will be given as a grant by the Government of India.